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ABSTRACT

The picture books in John Goodall's "Edwardian Series" can enrich the curriculum materials of the upper elementary social studies, reading, language arts, or art instructor. The books in the series are more than artistically correct--they also envelop history in warmth and humor. The books range from the earliest to the most recent: "An Edwardian Summer," "An Edwardian Christmas," "An Edwardian Holiday," "An Edwardian Season," and "Edwardian Entertainments." The pattern of Goodall's life is reflected in his pictorial biography and in the details of the activities portrayed throughout the series. The authentic historical detail and artistic talent represented by Goodall epitomizes a wealth of information that teachers can use to encourage students to strengthen their visual literacy skills and at the same time learn about history in an enjoyable manner. (The paper includes a brief biographical sketch of Goodall, an historical note on the Edwardian Era, descriptions of the books, and suggested uses of the books in the classroom.) (HOD)

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WORDLESS HISTORY BOOKS--

AN INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH TO TEACHING UPPER ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

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"WORDLESS HISTORY BOOKS -
AN INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH TO TEACHING UPPER ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

The value of picture books in curriculum planning beyond the primary grade levels is perhaps an unusual and often overlooked approach. But for the innovative social studies, reading, language arts and/or art instructor, one supremely crafted group of picture books can provide enriching curriculum material for upper elementary, middle and secondary students. The books, which will be analyzed in this article are five titles included in John Goodall's "Edwardian Series". For clarification and identification, the writers have included here, in addition to the descriptions of the books and possible uses in the classroom, a brief biographical sketch of the author/illustrator and an historical note on the Edwardian Era (1901-1910), the time period which is covered in the series.

John Goodall the Artist

John Goodall was born into an affluent family in Heacham, Norfolk England in 1908. His father, Joseph Goodall was a noted heart specialist. The pattern of Goodall's life is reflected in his pictorial biography and in the details of the activities portrayed throughout the Edwardian Series. One cannot miss the elegantly dressed men and women who people his books: at the seashore, enjoying the theatre, or participating in traditional Christmas games. Goodall the realist observed more than the recreation of the elite. He also observed and recorded the activities of the workers who

made all the functions fall into place: cooks, governesses, dressmakers, theatrical performers and others.

John Goodall studied at prestigious art schools, including the Royal Academy School of Art, and under such great teachers as Sir Arthur Cope and Watson Nicol. It was Nicol who Goodall claims helped him develop the observational skills that make his pictures so accurately informative. Goodall married Nicol's only daughter Margaret. The couple had one child, Sarah, for whom Goodall designed some of his early wordless books picturing the hilarious misadventures of Paddy Pork and other characters.

The books in the Edwardian series are more than artistically correct. The artist has communicated a sense of history enveloped in warmth and humor. There is evidence of serious research into the clothing and the customs of the time. These wordless picture books include from the earliest to the most recent: An Edwardian Summer, An Edwardian Christmas, An Edwardian Holiday, An Edwardian Season and Edwardian Entertainments.

What has Goodall included in his Edwardian Series? There are five books which complete this visual interpretation of a time of tranquility. The delicacy of color and attention to detail is evident as each book focuses on a special phase of activities. A study of the entire collection give a picture of a full year's "program" in the lives of the elite. Three of the books, An Edwardian Holiday, Edwardian Entertainments, and An Edwardian Season center around adult activities. But even in these books, one small boy and girl are constant figures, looking on, and when appropriate,

taking part in the happenings. During An Edwardian Season, one visits the Royal Opera House, which history states was one of Edward VII's favorite forms of entertainment, the popular Rose Show, the zoo, and a place with which Goodall would be very familiar,the Royal Academy of Art. In An Edwardian Holiday, one can appreciate Goodall's talents as a painter of seascapes in scenes where the ocean is not only a backdrop for his vacationing bathers but also for a Punch and Judy show! In Edwardian Entertainments the reader is treated to a robust performance by cancan dancers, a fair at Hampstead Heath on Bank Holiday, a visit backstage to the star actress's dressing room after viewing the opera "The Merry Widow", and the Chamber of Horrors at the wax museum.

In An Edwardian Summer and as it should be, in An Edwardian Christmas, activities of special interest to children are very evident. In the summer there is a trip to the fair where one can imagine the shrieks of glee as children are swung high into the air on a monstrous wooden swing, talk to a fortune teller, and spend a few days in the classroom awaiting the close of school. In An Edwardian Christmas the children can be seen decorating the Christmas tree, attending church, hanging stockings, and building a snowman in the crisp cold of a British winter countryside.

The influence of the pastoral English landscape near Stonehenge where Goodall makes his home can be seen in the mist-touched backgrounds in some of the scenes in these Edwardian books. This is particularly noticeable in An Edwardian Summer and An Edwardian Season where the foliage is full and green. The thatched huts

that are so typical of rural England form a natural background in An Edwardian Season and An Edwardian Holiday. The ease with which Goodall includes animals of the area and picturesque vistas into this wordless scenario pay high tribute to his observant eye. This talent enhances his highly artistic ability to share with readers a great deal of historical information and an appreciative sense of a very special time and place.

The Edwardian Era

The Edwardian Era (1901-1910) is the time period named for Edward VII, former Prince of Wales. This period can best be characterized as a time of magnificence and tranquility before the onset of World War I. Edward, known as "Bertie" was raised in a very structured environment as a child. Queen Victoria and Prince Albert saw that their son was tutored six hours a day, six days a week and required to do physical exercise and maintain a strict diet. As Edward grew older however, he came to reject this control. As a result, he was sent on royal tours throughout the world, which probably fostered his love for travel and ceremony which he continued throughout his life.

Edward's reign marked a transition from a stiff Victorian society to an Edwardian life style replete with highly lavish and vigorous forms of entertainment. He had a passion for food; his suppers generally consisted of 12 course meals. He travelled widely, visiting Paris, Egypt and the spas of Europe. In the

midst of all of this flamboyance he maintained his marriage to Alexandria, Princess of Denmark who bore him five children. His subjects viewed him as a sympathetic monarch interested in the social and political concerns of the time.

The Edwardian Era was a brief encounter with the finer things life had to offer; it was Britain's golden age, the last moment for the affluent, pleasureable "Jet Set" before the world became involved in war. This time period is accurately portrayed by Goodall in all of his Edwardian books.

Activities

The authentic historical detail and artistic talent represented by Goodall in his Edwardian collection epitomizes a wealth of information teachers can use to encourage students to strengthen their visual literacy skills and at the same time learn about history in an enjoyable manner. The following suggestions covering the disciplines of reading and language arts, home economics, physical education, science, social studies, math, and music represent but a few activities upper elementary, middle, or secondary students can do. The activities are written so teachers can duplicate them for students to read and follow as they increase their knowledge about the Edwardian Era. These suggestions provide a new way to look at books.

1. In An Edwardian Summer children can be seen reading, and there are also books on the shelf in the bedroom. Some of the story books the Edwardian children could have read include:

Alice in Wonderland	Lewis Carroll
Robinson Crusoe	Daniel Defoe
Jungle Stories	Rudyard Kipling
The Wind in the Willows	Kenneth Grahame
Treasure Island	R. L. Stevenson

Read one (or more) of these titles. Share your book with the class in some way by creative writing, designing a three dimensional project, etc.

2. An Edwardian Christmas, An Edwardian Season and Edwardian Entertainments all show scenes with people driving cars. Find out what kind of cars were available during the Edwardian Era (1901-1910).
Make a time line with drawings that show the changes in cars from the Edwardian Era to today.

3. In An Edwardian Christmas the family is seen decorating the Christmas tree. In an era when tradition was very important, it might be assumed that some of the decorations were heirlooms from times past.
Begin or continue a tradition in your family. Make a holiday decoration that can be passed on to other generations, and used many times over. Share your creation with the class.

4. King Edward VII had a passion for food. In checking the historical accuracy of information in the Edwardian series, one can see in An Edwardian Christmas and An Edwardian Season that the people ate lavishly well.
Imagine that for 10 people you are preparing a dinner party typical of the Edwardian period. Among the guests will be the King who often dines on 12 course meals.
   a. Using a variety of cookbooks, plan a menu with 12 courses, one or two of which are typically English.
   b. Research books that mention china and silverware. Select pattern(s) for the place settings that could have been used at this meal. Share your menu and research with the class.

5. The Rose Show, seen in An Edwardian Season has through the years been s popular annual event in England. This popular flower, the rose, center of attention in its many varieties, is often called "The Queen of Flowers".
   a. Investigate sources that will help you find out about the use of the "rose" as a symbol on coins, banners, crests or coat of arms.
   b. A specially designed window in some cathedrals is called a "Rose Window". Share with your class information you find about rose windows, and where some are located.

5. (continued)
   c. Study the rose, a history of its varieties, hybrid changes, etc., from a botanist's perspective.
   d. How are roses used in food preparation?
6. In Edwardian Entertainments the theater has a prominent place in the activities of the elite. In this book there is an announcement of a Gilbert and Sullivan operetta, "The Pirates of Penzance".
   a. Research or read The Pirates of Penzance and try to learn some of the songs to share with your class.
   b. Listen to the music of a ballet the Edwardians might have seen such as "Giselle" "Firebird" or "Nutcracker".
7. Read An Edwardian Summer and An Edwardian Christmas and study the interior and exterior architecture of the homes. Compare this architecture with that of the homes in your neighborhood. How do they differ? How are they similar?
   Create a project (bulletin board, mobile, diorama, creative writing, illustration) to show how these homes are similar and/or different.
8. In An Edwardian Christmas and in Edwardian Entertainments there are scenes at costume balls. Study these pictures carefully. Design an invitation to a costume ball using ideas from some of the costumes the people were wearing. Make a Program Book for "the night of the affair".
9. In An Edwardian Holiday the photographer is seen taking pictures of people at the beach, much as one would do today for the newspaper.
   (1) Using black and white film, take pictures of some activities with your family or schoolmates. Develop the film in the school darkroom if possible. Write a story using your pictures.
   (2) How does the camera you use differ from the one in the book? Research, write, or create something that reveals these differences.
10. Read An Edwardian Season and look at Victorian Fashion Paper Dolls from Harper's Bazar, 1867-1898 and modern paper dolls such as The Princess Diana Paper Doll Book of Fashion and others. Compare the hats, dresses, purses, parasols of these two eras.
    a. Write, draw, or create (something) that would reveal these differences. When you finish, share your creations with the class.
    b. Create your own set of dolls and costumes that represent both the Edwardian era and the 20th century. Share your work with youmger children who might be interested in using them.

11. In An Edwardian Season the socialites travel to several places to enjoy being entertained.
    a. Make a map that would trace a possible route that could be taken to cover all the places mentioned in the book.
    b. For a math experience, see how many miles the travellers might have gone. Report your findings to the class.
12. Visit an art museum. Study the paintings of artists who were known during the Victorian/Edwardian era. (Reynolds, Gainsborough, Hogarth, etc.). Study the techniques of some (two or three) artists whose work you admire. Share this with your class.
13. Read An Edwardian Season and notice the private viewings of paintings at the Royal Academy of Art.
    Imagine that you are a wealthy Edwardian shopping for a manor in the country. You need some paintings and you want some of the huge works done by famous artists during the Victorian and Edwardian Eras (1837-1910).
    (1) Which paintings would you buy? Locate reproductions and/or other information about these paintings.
    (2) If a Kodak Visualmaker is available or if you can use a 35mm camera, make slides of the paintings chosen and show the class a slide presentation of the pictures you would put into the manor house.
14. Imagine that you are one of the people in An Edwardian Holiday.
    a. Write a letter to a friend describing what you did and how you felt during your holiday. If possible, use calligraphy and write an English script to help you understand this form of handwriting. When you finish, share your letter with the class.
    b. Invite the class to learn this handwriting if they are interested.
15. The main focus of the books in the Edwardian Series is on the pleasure-filled activities of the socially elite. However work must be done by someone. Observe the WOMEN who are working in An Edwardian Summer and Edwardian Entertainments. Find out what you can about working conditions for women of that era.
16. In An Edwardian Christmas, the family can be seen playing a game called "Blind Man's Buff". It is a popular Christmas Season game in England. Research the directions for the game, and play the game with friends.

17. During the years 1908-1912 the Ladies Home Journal featured paper dolls for children to cut out and play with. These paper dolls can be seen in The Lettie Lane Paper Dolls.
Study the clothes worn by the children in An Edwardian Christmas. Then compare their clothes to those Lettie Lane and her family wore. How are they the same or different? Draw, write or create a project that describes these differences. Share them with your classmates when you finish.

18. In An Edwardian Summer and in An Edwardian Christmas there are scenes showing people in church. Study these churches and do one or more of the following activities:
    (1) Find out the main religion in England. Research into the order of service and compare with a type of service with which you are familiar.
    (2) Compare the churches in the Goodall books with the Cathedrals which are found in many parts of England. Using Macaulay's Cathedral as one reference, find out how a cathedral is built.
    (3) Are there cathedrals in the United States? Where? Write an illustrated article about a famous cathedral in the United States.

19. Different kinds of dolls are seen in the children's rooms in An Edwardian Summer and in An Edwardian Christmas. Among others, two popular dolls of the period were the "Peddler Doll" and the "Fortune-Telling Doll." Simple directions are available in craft books for making these two dolls. Make one of these dolls. Have fun decorating your own "Peddler Doll" or tell friends about their "future" when you have made your own special "Fortune-Telling Doll." (It only takes a paint mixing stick, paste, a little wire, paper, fabric, scissors and your creative imagination!)

20. In An Edwardian Christmas the children are shown opening and playing with various christmas gifts.
    a. Make a list of these gifts and then find the prices of these toys today.
    b. With a partner imagine that you must both give 3 classmates gifts for the holidays. You each have $25.00 to spend. Use a catalog or newspaper and decide what you will purchase and list the amount of each item (including tax). Share your list with each other and see which shopper stays within the budget the best.

21. In An Edwardian Summer and An Edwardian Season children go to the fair. Observe closely the activities that go on at the fair. Make a comparison chart between fairs in the Edwardian era and a fair you have attended in modern times.

22. Read Edwardian Entertainments and note the wax museum. As a group activity make a classroom mural of historical figures that could be seen in a wax museum today.

    Remember that accurate information must be given about the figures or scenes included.

23. Read An Edwardian Christmas and An Edwardian Summer. Pay particular attention to the kitchen scenes in the two books.
    a. Make a list comparing the Edwardian kitchen with a modern day kitchen.
    b. With original drawings, and pictures from magazines make a collage showing the changes in kitchen stoves, utensils, storage space, etc.

24. In An Edwardian Christmas, people are seen singing around the piano.
    a. Do some research into the carols that might have been popular at that time.
    b. Learn to sing some of these carols, particularly the English ones and share them with your classmates. Some of these carols include:

        "I Saw Three Ships"

        "The Holly and The Ivy"

        "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"

25. In Edwardian Entertainments children are taken to the circus.
    a. Write a letter to a clown school to find out what clowns must learn to become a part of a circus. Ask about tuition, admission policies, and the program.
    b. Read a circus story, e.g. Toby Tyler by James Otis.

26. Study the activities children participate in An Edwardian Christmas and An Edwardian Summer. Some of the gameboards children played with in the Edwardian Era included "Aero Flights", "Marathon Race", "The Invasion of Europe" "Steeplechase", "Scouting", and "Footer". These games were all produced by Chad Valley Games. Read about some of these games in Play the Game by Brian Love or in a similar book. Then make up your own game with counters and rules. Play the game in your class.

27. Read all of the Edwardian books by Goodall. Then obtain a copy of Antique Paper Dolls--The Edwardian Era. Study the clothes presented in the books.
    a. Choose your favorite outfit or design one of your own. Then imagine wearing your new outfit and visiting one of the places in Goodall's Edwardian books. Write about your experiences to a friend.
    b. Design a piece of note paper with a person or persons dressed in Edwardian costume. Write a letter to a friend on this specially designed paper.

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